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Hardiman Announces Education Savings Bills Pass Senate

*Legislation Offers More Local Control for Districts, Opportunity
to Save Funds in Operating Budgets*

(LANSING) – State Senator Bill Hardiman, R-Kentwood, announced the Legislature is making steadfast progress in cutting administrative costs for K-12 education by passing two bills giving local school districts flexibility in their operating budgets.

“This cost savings package will put students first by giving our K-12 schools more local control and by reducing unnecessary state mandates,” Senator Hardiman said. “Even during tight economic times we must ensure quality classroom instruction and allow every education dollar to make the most impact in the classroom.”

Spanning a three week time period, the Senate Education Committee received testimony from local school administrators who offered suggestions on how school districts across the state can save funds in their operating budgets. Based on those suggestions, the following two bills today passed the Senate:

Senate Bill 365: Streamlining the Center for Educational Performance and Information (CEPI). Currently, data submitted by schools is submitted to CEPI and numerous other state agencies. This bill requires that all data submissions will be made directly to CEPI. Sponsor: Senator Nancy Cassis, R-Novi.

Senate Bill 366: Eliminating Professional Development Requirements. Currently, new teachers must have 15 days of professional development within the first three years along with five days of professional development per year. School districts pay for these services in addition to paying for substitute teachers to be in the classrooms. According to the Senate Fiscal Agency, schools could save between \$35 and \$40 million alone by not having to pay substitute teacher costs. Sponsor: Senator Alan Cropsey, R-DeWitt.

Senate Bills 365 and 366 now await consideration from the House Education Committee.